

**ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT  
HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM  
HABITAT ENHANCEMENT AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PROPOSAL**

**PROJECT INFORMATION**

**Project Title: Pozo Nuevo Catchment**

**Project No. 07-526**

**Region/GMU: Region 5 / Unit 36A**

**HPC: Tucson**

**Project Type: New Water Development**

**Project Description:**

This project is one of several catchments that have been planned for years to restore water to the Buenos Aires NWR. The refuge stopped grazing in the mid-1980s and the refuge did not maintain any of the cattle drinkers water sources for wildlife. With the lack of grazing, range conditions improved, however, the improved grass cover reduced run-off and many of the previously reliable dirt water tanks went dry and most stayed dry. The lack of surface water has been identified by the department for years as a limiting factor for wildlife on the refuge, but the previous refuge administration would not allow water to be restored until the Comprehensive Conservation Plan was complete. That plan is now complete and we can commence with the restoration efforts that began eight years ago.

This project proposes we add a water catchment on the northern part of the refuge, one of the best mule deer areas in the state. The location is such that mule deer, javelina and white tailed deer will benefit from this water source. The nearest reliable water source to this location is approximately 4.5 miles in several directions. This is an example of well-planned water source in an area that is being managed properly in all other respects (i.e., great habitat quality).

**Wildlife Species to Benefit: Mule Deer, javelina, and other mammals and birds including Masked Bobwhite Quail.**

This catchment will have a direct benefit for mule deer. This catchment will provide a perennial water source for mule deer on the 36A portion of the refuge. The only other perennial water source in this area is in whitetail habitat approximately 4.5 miles from this location at the base of the Las Guijas Mountains.

**Possible Funding Partners: 40 Volunteers from Safari Club International (Arizona Chapter) and AZ Hunters Who Care and the use of a Back hoe and bobcat from Tucson Mountain Concrete Company.**

**Implementation Schedule: Dependent on Funding for parts, scheduling for Equipment and volunteers, and Game and Fish Development employees to assist with the project. Approximately 8 days to build this catchment.**

**Beginning:**

**Completed:**

## PROJECT FUNDING

**SBG Funds Requested: \$23,300**

**Cost Share Funds:**      **\$6,050 Volunteer Labor Arizona Chapter SCI and AZ Hunters Who Care and Gravel for bedding tanks**  
                                 **\$1,000 Archaeology (Completed by USFWS 8/06)**  
                                 **\$6,000 Tucson Mountain Concrete (Back hoe and Bobcat and Operators)**  
                                 **\$5,000 Game and Fish Crew of 3**

**Total Project Costs: \$41,350**

## PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

**Applicant: Gabriel Paz (AZGFD)**  
**gpaz@azgfd.gov**

**Telephone: 520-883-0487**

**Address:**

AZ Game and Fish Department  
555 N. Greasewood Road  
Tucson, AZ 85745

**AGFD Contact and Phone No.**  
**(If applicant is not AGFD personnel)**

**Coordinated with: Jim Hefelfinger AZGFD, Mary Hunnicutt (BANWR), Joe Currie AZGFD**

**Date: 8/28/07**

**Applicant's signature:**

**Date:**

### SEND COMPLETED APPLICATIONS TO:

**Game Branch**  
**2221 W. Greenway Rd.**  
**Phoenix, AZ 85023**  
**[mdisney@azgfd.gov](mailto:mdisney@azgfd.gov)**

### NEED STATEMENT/PROBLEM ANALYSIS:

This catchment will be critical for mule deer and javelina in this area. The area is currently devoid of perennial water and has not been grazed for almost 20 years. The range conditions are good and the refuge operates an aggressive burning program that helps to improve forage conditions. Most fences have been removed from the refuge property. With all other manageable factors taken care of we need to make sure the deer and javelina habitat has an adequate distribution of water.

### PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

Add a reliable source of water on the Northwest side of the Buenos Aires Refuge. This will complement the last catchment we added in the foothills of the Las Guijas Mountains (approx 4.5 miles away) and the Wilber Canyon Catchment which is approximately 7 miles to the south of the proposed catchment. This should improve the current distribution of deer and javelina and allow them to use more habitat during dry years and dry times of the year. It is one more step in our quest to restore water distribution on the refuge to levels it was when the Buenos Aires Ranch was operating.

The Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge Habitat Management Plan identifies water distribution as a problem on the Refuge and we have coordinated with the Refuge on this project to pick a location that will help make water more accessible for all wildlife in the area.

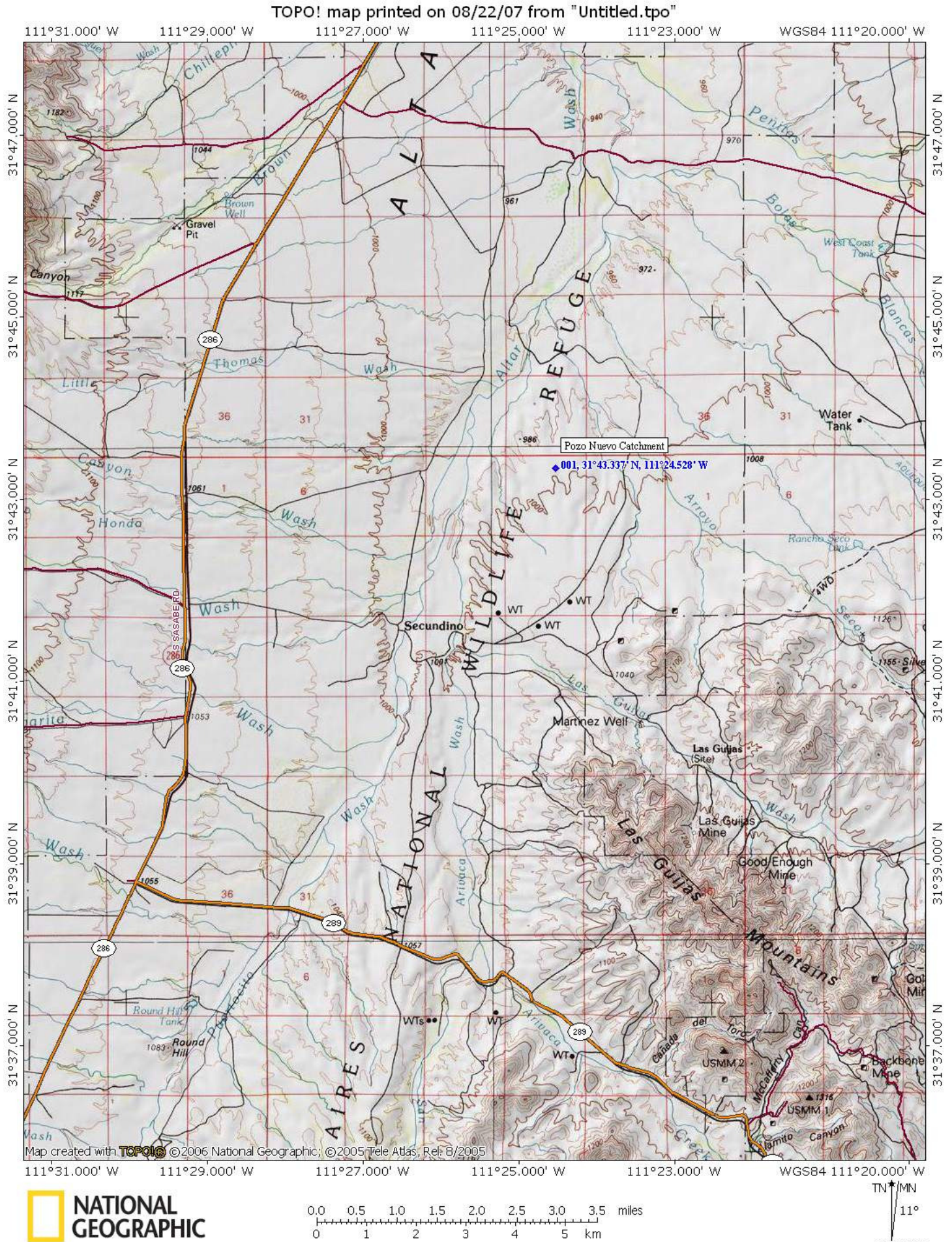
**PROJECT STRATEGIES:**

Construct a new catchment in the location noted below using components itemized in the budget table.

**PROJECT LOCATION:**

The site is located at GPS coordinates 31° 43.337' and 111°24.528. The approximate elevation of the site is 3270 feet. Township 20 S, Range 9 E, Section 3, NE ¼, NW ¼.

The Proposed Catchment location is at the top of the map on the next page. There is a road that is located within 200 yards of the proposed location.



**LAND OWNERSHIP AT PROJECT SITE (Please state specifically if PRIVATE PROPERTY and provide landowner's name):**

This Proposed Catchment location is on USFWS, Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge.

**IF PRIVATE PROPERTY, IS THERE A STEWARDSHIP AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LANDOWNER AND THE DEPARTMENT?**

N/A

**HABITAT DESCRIPTION:**

The current and proposed location of this catchment is at an elevation of about 3270' in upper Sonoran Desert grassland habitat consisting of various grass species, mesquite, and shrubs.

**ITEMIZED USE OF FUNDS:**

<b>Materials</b>	<b>Grant Dollars Requested</b>	<b>Cost Share AGFD</b>
24' x 72' Sheet metal collection apron Fiberglass gutter, all associated steel and concrete (everything)	\$7,000	
1- 36 inch walk-in trough	3,675	
2 – 16 ft diameter tank 36 inches deep.	\$9,292.80	
Fence (150' X150' standard Pipherail)*	2,000	
Misc- Plumbing, screws welding rod. Etc...	500	
➤ Archaeology (Completed by USFWS)		➤ \$1000
➤ 3 Man Game and Fish Crew		➤ 5,000
➤ Tucson Mountain Concrete (Heavy Equipment)		➤ \$6000
➤ Volunteer Labor Hunters Who Care and Arizona SCI (40 volunteer days + miles)		➤ 5,850
➤ Gravel Bedding Material for Tanks		➤ \$200
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$23,300.00</b>	<b>\$18,050</b>

**\*Although this is a National Wildlife Refuge and cattle are not allowed to graze the refuge, trespass cattle can occasionally be found in this area so we are recommending a fence be placed around this catchment.**

### **LIST COOPERATORS AND DESCRIBE POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION:**

This catchment has already been prioritized in the Department's statewide annual work plan to for development.

This proposed catchment location was chosen by Mary Hunnicutt (USFWS), Gabriel Paz (AZGFD) and Joe Currie (AZGFD). The location was specifically chosen to provide perennial water source for wildlife in an area that is has an abundance of wildlife.

Arizona Chapter of Safari Club International and Arizona Hunters Who Care will be donating volunteer time, and miles to help complete the project. Approximately two days, 20 volunteers per day.

Tucson Mountain Concrete will be donating a Case Back hoe and a Skidster (bobcat) and operators for as long as we need them.

### **PROJECT MONITORING PLAN:**

All catchments in Region 5 are monitored at least twice annually by wildlife managers to determine if water hauling is necessary.

Refuge personnel will also monitor this catchment. The Refuge can also assist the department by providing water or hauling water to this catchment.

### **PROJECT MAINTENANCE:**

This catchment will be the Department's responsibility to maintain. It will be checked a minimum of twice per year.

### **PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT TO BE FILED BY:**

The Department's Development Branch would complete the project completion report.

### **WATER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS (see attached worksheet):**

### **TREE SHEARING (AGRA-AXE, PUSH) PROJECTS (see attached worksheet):**

## **ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT WATER DEVELOPMENT WORKSHEET**

**PROJECT NAME:** Pozo Nuevo Catchment

- 1) **Is the water development listed as a priority in the most recent “Wildlife Water Development? Annual Implementation Schedule?”**
- 2) **Please list the Development Branch personnel and date coordinated with for this project.**  
Joe Currie (Summer 2006)
- 3) **What is the estimated annual inches of precipitation for the area? (mark one)**  
☐ 2-4   ☐ 4-6   ☐ 6-8   ☐ 8-10   ☐ 10-12   ☒ 12-14   ☐ 14-16   ☐ >16
- 4) **Is there a perennial water source available to big game within four miles of this project?**  
☐ YES (please complete #5 below) ☒ NO (skip #5 below)
- 5) **For the accessible, perennial water source nearest this project:**  
Name of water source: Las Guijas  
Type of water source (catchment, spring, dirt tank, etc.): Catchment  
Ownership of water source: AZ Game and Fish  
Distance in miles from project: 4.5 miles
- 6) **Is the target wildlife species a result of transplant efforts?** ☐ YES   ☒ NO  
Although there are pronghorn antelope in this area from two separate releases on the refuge. One release was in the 1980's and the second release was in the late 1990's. Currently there are remaining antelope within 4 miles of this area on the ranch to the east of the refuge.
- 7) **Please list any special land management status for the project site (i.e. Wilderness, National Park, National Monument, etc). If private land, list landowner.**  
Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge (United States Fish and Wildlife Service)
- 8) **Please provide the following information about access to the proposed site:**  
Type of access (mark one): ☒ 2x4 vehicles   ☐ 4x4 only   ☐ foot only\*\*  
\*\*If foot access only: Distance in miles:   Approx. hiking time:  
-- Does access to this site require crossing private or tribal lands? ☐ YES   ☒ NO  
-- Please describe any restrictions to public access:
- 9) **Please list below (or on a separate sheet) the material type and dimensions of each component proposed to be added, modified, or repaired.**
- 10) **Was a site visit completed?** ☒ Yes   ☐ No  
If Yes, please list personnel that attended and date.

Gabriel Paz and Joe Currie (AZGFD) and Mary Hunnicutt (USFWS)